

142 THE
CONDUCT
OF

Cardinal ALBERONI, 1/2

With an ACCOUNT
Of some Secret Transactions at the
SPANISH COURT; which may
give Light into the CAUSE of his
unexpected DISGRACE and FALL.

— *Fam non ad culmina rerum
Injustos crevisse queror, tolluntur in altum,
Ut lapsu graviore ruant.*



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OF
CATHOLIC ALBANY

WHO IN A COURT
OF SOME SECRET TRIBUNAL
STANDS BEFORE US; WHEN ONLY
GIVE US INTO THE HANDS OF THE
UNPROMISING OF A CHANCE AND A L.

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LONDON
Printed for J. R. O. and T. S. in the Strand
1800
(The Year)



T H E
C O N D U C T
O F
Cardinal *ALBERONI*, &c.



THE Removal of Cardinal *Alberoni* from the Court of *Spain* being so sudden and unexpected, must undoubtedly for some time cause various Speculations. An Event so remarkable cannot but engage the Reflection of the thinking part of Mankind: But though one must believe that *Philip V.* took this Step to convince the several Powers allied against him of his sincere Intentions of putting an End to a War, (which must have very fatal Consequences over all *Europe*) by removing for ever from his Presence and Councils a Person, whom those Powers thought they had

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good

good Reason to believe an Incendiary, and the only Obstacle to an approaching Peace; yet the Ways this Minister made use of to raise himself to such a height of Grandeur, and what were the Causes of his Fall, are not Things so obvious to those who are but little acquainted with the History of Cardinal *Alberoni*.

To give my Readers what Satisfaction I can in so nice an Affair as this, I shall in the ensuing Pages, with as much brevity as is consistent with clearness and perspicuity, set down,

I. What Steps he took to advance himself to so high a Pinnacle of human Glory. And,

II. What was effectually the Cause of his Disgrace and Ruin.

To do which, it will be absolutely necessary for us to look back to his first setting out in the World, and take some *cursor*y View of every Stage of Life he has past over; I say, *Cursor*y View, for should I endeavour to represent every Incident that concurred to form that Great Man, this Work would swell into a Volume, and far exceed the Brevity I propose to my self in this Undertaking.

The

The Cardinal, who is now in the Fifty Sixth Year of his Age, was born in the Suburbs of *Placentia* or *Piacenza*, a City in *Italy*, subject to the Duke of *Parma*, (and which is one of his Titles) on the 30th of *March* 1674, he lived till he was Fourteen Years of Age with his Parents, who were honest People but very poor, having no other Subsistence but by working in the Vineyards and Gardens. His Father (who at the Font would have him be call'd *Julius*) was known to his Neighbours by no higher Title than *Messer Giovanni*, which in *English* is no more than *Goodman* (or *Gaffer*) *John*, and entertained no greater Ideas than how to gain his Bread by the Sweat of his Brows.

But *Julius* (or *Giuglio* according to the *Italian* Orthography and Termination) who was born for greater Things, soon discover'd a Genius too great to be confin'd within the narrow Limits of a poor Cottage: and, as soon as he began to know himself and reflect, bewail'd his cruel Destiny which had given him such Parents who were incapable of bestowing on him that Education he envy'd in others of his Age. This noble Emulation inspired him with the Means to get out of that unhappy Station. He thought (and in that he was not deceiv'd) the shortest Way would be to embrace the
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Ecclesiastical State ; but here arose a Difficulty which gave him much perplexity, he had no Patrimony or Annual Income, and without this he knew it impossible to obtain Priests Orders ; but being of an undaunted Courage, resolute and intrepid, yet supple and obliging, he made a shift to be admitted as a Clerk to the Parish Priest, who having a kindness for him, instructed him at his leisure times in the Rudiments of Grammar.

Soon after, the *Barnabites* (a Religious Order, whose Institution is like that of the Jesuits, purely for instruction of Youth, but are more Honest) took notice of young *Alberoni*, and sufficiently instructed him in that which we call human Learning. He behav'd himself with that Modesty and respectful Deportment to these good Fathers, that they got him a small Office in the Cathedral. This brought some Money into his Pocket, and his complaisant and obliging Carriage to the Canons, so engag'd them, that they would not let the Bishop rest till he had given him a small *Benefice*, as a Qualification for Orders ; which that Prelate, by the continual solicitations of his Friends the Canons, soon after confer'd upon him.

He quitted then his Employment in the Cathedral, and by his Address got himself
admitted

admitted into the Family of *Monfignor Barni*, Vice Legat of *Romagna*, who refided then at *Ravenna* the Capital City of that Province. This Prelate, who was naturally Grave and Referv'd, was pleas'd with his Company, which was ever Brisk and Gay, and took fuch Inclination to him, that when he was nominated to the Bilhoprick of *Placentia*, he took *Alberoni* with him, and in fome time after gave him the Tutelage of his Nephew. This young Gentleman going afterwards to *Rome*, (for he was design'd for the Church) took his Governour with him; who made it his Bufinefs to infinuate himfelf into the good liking of the greateft Noblemen whom he had occafion to attend, for he never left his Charge; who, on the other Hand, took a Pleafure to introduce him to Persons of the higheft Rank and Quality.

In the Year 1702, after Prince *Eugene's* Enterprize upon *Cremona*, and carrying off the Duke *de Villeroy*, the King of *France* gave the Command of his Army in *Italy* to the Duke *de Vendofme*, to whom the Duke of *Parma* fent the Count *Romcoveri*, (then a Bilhop) in order to fecure that Prince's Intereft. The Bilhop, who was one of the Politeft Men in the World, had fome time before admitted *ALBERONI* into his Friendfhip, took him along with him to
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the Duke of *Vendosme*, either to bear him Company, or to make use of him, because he spoke *French* very well, having learnt it as he attended his Pupil Signor *Barni* at his Lectures.

Alberoni's Conduct was highly approv'd by the *French* Officers, who often, before their General, said abundance of fine things of his smartness of Repartee, and the agreeableness of his Conversation, in so much that the Duke was desirous of admitting him into his Family. This Interview was very happy for *Alberoni*, which at first gain'd him the Esteem, soon after the Friendship, and at last the entire Confidence of that Prince, who took no Delight but in his Company, and ever call'd him his *Dear Abbé*. Here it was he did singular Service to his own Prince the Duke of *Parma*, and manag'd his Affairs so dextrously, that the Imperialists apprehending the Duke would admit a *French* Garrison into his Capital if they provok'd him, never gave him the least Disturbance.

In the Year 1706 the Duke of *Vendosme* was recall'd, and the Duke of *Orleans* (now Regent of *France*) sent to supply his Place, which intirely chang'd the Scene of Affairs. The Siege of *Turin* was rais'd, and the Imperialists and Duke of *Savoy* began to be predominant in *Italy*.

When

When the Duke of *Vendosme* return'd to *France*, he took *Alberoni* along with him to Court, where his Character and Abilities were known before ; the Duke took the first Opportunity to recommend him to that great Prince, who received him very graciously. But the Duke of *Vendosme's* kindness ended not here, he took him along with him into *Flanders*, when he succeeded the unfortunate Marshal *Villeroy* ; and having returned with Honour, and received shining Marks of the King's Esteem, presented a second time *Alberoni* to the *Grand Monarch*, declaring that he owed his good Fortune to the judicious Councils of his Dear *Alberoni*.

In the Year 1707. he returned with the Duke into *Flanders*, but the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry* being then with his Patron, there was no opportunity of assisting him with his Councils : in short, every Body knew how that Campaign ended. *Alberoni* however still kept close to the Duke, who retir'd to his Castle of *Auet*, after yielding up his Post in *Flanders* to the Marshals *de Villars* and *Boufflers*, who notwithstanding their Bravery and Experience, left the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* the Glory of that Campaign.

King *Philip* some time after having been obliged to leave *Madrid*, General (now

Earl) *Stanbope* took possession of it for King *Charles* (the present Emperour); and King *Philip's* affairs declining, the Duke *de Vendosme*, who was sent to save *Spain* from Ruin, arriv'd at *Valladolid*, where he found King *Philip* in many Dangers; but whose affairs afterwards by the Conduct of this consummate General, and the Councils of *Alberoni* took another turn; and the Battle of *Brihuega*, put the alternative on King *Charles*.

The Duke of *Vendosme* had by his Services gain'd such a large share of King *Philip's* Esteem and Confidence, that all things at that Court were regulated by his Councils. The Princess of *Ursini*, an Imperious Favourite, could not bear a Rival in the Royal Favour, and whenever the Duke of *Vendosme* came to Court, ever absented herself under some Colour of Indisposition. The Duke on the other hand, considering his Services had justly recommended him to the Preference, tho' he had not deserved it by his Birth, treated her as indifferently, and did not scruple to say of her, *that he thought it strange that the advice of a Woman should be taken in affairs which it did not belong to a Woman to know.*

This misunderstanding proved very advantageous to *Alberoni*, for the Duke having occasion for a Person whom he could confide

side in at Court, introduced him there, and gave him some Commissions which made him known to the King, and like a generous Patron, never failed insinuating to that Prince the Services he had on all occasions done the Government.

This rendered him ever acceptable to King *Philip*, and entertained his aspiring Genius with hopes of making his Fortune in a Court, which gave him all the Encouragement his Ambition could wish or desire; but his towering Hopes were in a great measure checked by the greatest shock he ever was sensible of, I mean the unexpected Death of his generous Patron the Duke of *Vendosm*.

Fortune, who sports with Mankind, was some time before pleased to change the Scene of Affairs, by laying in the Dust two Princes on whose Lives the whole seemed to depend. The Small Pox carried off almost at the same time the *Dauphin*, (Father to King *Philip*) and the Emperour *Joseph*.

The Re-union of the whole *Spanish* Monarchy with the Hereditary Countries of *Germany*, to which King *Charles* now became Successor, added to the Imperial Crown, gave Birth to another Fear equal almost to the apprehensions which the notion of a Union of the Kingdoms of *France*

and *Spain*, had caused all over *Europe*, and put the several Powers upon serious Reflections, which afterwards terminated in the Treaty of *Utrecht*.

In the mean while King *Charles*, the only surviving Prince of the August House of *Austria*, was unanimously chosen Emperor, and to which Election the late Queen did not a little contribute her good Offices; and, by what appeared afterwards, the motives that induced that Princess to concur with the States General in pressing the Election of King *Charles* to the Imperial Crown, were, because then there would be just reasons for putting an end to a War, which had lasted but too long, and cost *Great Britain* and the States so much Blood and Treasure.

About this time it was thought adviseable that the King of *Spain* should act only on the Defensive in *Catalonia*, the Courts of *England* and *France* having engaged to procure the Evacuation of that Province. The Duke of *Vendosm* accordingly left *Madrid*, having received the greatest Honours that Court could bestow, of which I make no mention here, as being a matter too well known.

Alberoni who never left him, arrived with him in the Kingdom of *Valencia*, where Providence was pleased (according to
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its eternal Decree) to put an end to the glorious Career of this great Prince, who was Grandson to *Henry* the Fourth, and the last of his illustrious Family; for he left no Issue by his Consort the Princess of *Conde*, whom he married before he set out for *Spain*. He dy'd at *Vinacos*, the eleventh of *June*, in the Year 1712, universally regretted by the Officers and Soldiers of both Nations, but especially by his Favourite *Alberoni*, into whose Hands he gave his Last Will, and in whose Arms he expired, after having taken his last Adieu with a Sorrow no one can describe, or indeed imagine, but those who know the value of a sincere and generous Friend.

This was the first shock that *Alberoni* met with, after Fortune had lavished on him her Favours, and of which undoubtedly he could not but be very particularly sensible. By this sudden and unexpected stroke, he fancied all those hopes which he thought could not be closer twisted, all at once unravelled. But as he was a Person of undaunted Courage, he was resolved not to be dismayed; he ran over an infinity of Projects, neither of which he made choice of, only as he was let into most of the Duke his Patrons Secrets, he was resolved to make the best of them, and accordingly took Post for *Versailles*, to give the *French*
King

King an account in what manner the Duke of *Vendosm* had left his Affairs, and the Schemes he had formed.

The gracious Reception that great Prince gave him, inspired him with new hopes, and confirmed him in the opinion he long before entertain'd, that his noble Patron had ever spoken advantageously of him to the King.

Madam the Dutchess Dowager of *Vendosm*, was also highly pleased to see the intimate Friend of one who was so dear to her, and as the Duke in his last Moments had given it in particular charge to *Alberoni*, to pay her his last Adieus, that Princess often assured him that he should ever find as good a Friend in her, as he had in the Duke her Husband.

This declaration of the Dutchess, together with the satisfaction the King was pleased to say he had in *Alberoni's* Conduct, and the gracious manner with which he received him at his Audiences, was the occasion of increasing the number of his Friends, as is the way of all Courts.

But notwithstanding the many Favours he had received from the Courts of *France* and *Spain*, *Alberoni* was always most inviolably attach'd to the Interest of that Prince whose Subject he was by Birth; and he did not fail to give the Duke of *Parma* an account

count of the State of his Affairs in *Spain*, and of the Dispositions he left the Court in, towards him, and that Prince being persuaded of *Alberoni's* Influence over the Persons who had most frequent Access to King *Philip*, and over his Majesty too, was resolved to send him to *Spain*, and commit the Care of his Interest to him.

While the Duke of *Parma* had this in Consideration, the Duke *d'Ossuna* arrived at *Paris*, and was preparing to set out for the Congress at *Utrecht*, as Plenipotentiary on the part of King *Philip*. *Alberoni* would have been extreamly pleased to have met with him, that he might see the Congress, and get an acquaintance with so many illustrious Statesmen as compos'd it. He was well known to the Duke *d'Ossuna*, and might easily have obtain'd this Favour of him; but he was obliged to wait the Orders of his Master the Duke of *Parma*, which at last he received; and saw with Pleasure, that he was oblig'd by his Commission to return to that Country where Fortune always caressed him.

In the mean while the Peace of *Utrecht* was signed; by which *Spain* and the *Indies* were to remain to King *Philip*, on those Conditions all the World knows.

But while the Armies and Fleets of *France* and *Spain* were preparing to reduce
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the *Catalans* to the Obedience of King *Philip*, the whole Kingdom of *Spain* was all on a sudden plunged into the deepest Sorrow for a loss she then thought could never be sufficiently repaired; I mean the Death of the Queen *Maria Louisa Gabriella*, Princess of *Savoy*, and Daughter to his Royal Highness the Duke.

The Reign of this Princess had been one continued Series of Troubles, the sudden Death of her Sister the *Dauphiness*, and her Fathers joyning with the Enemies of her tottering Crown, were what gave her inexpressible Anxiety, which she nevertheless concealed from the Publick, with a greatness of Soul above her Sex; and tho' she was heartned up and comforted by her dear Favourite the Princess of *Ursini*, yet Human Nature suffered all the while, which render'd her Constitution sickly; and she contracted a languishing Distemper, which brought her to her Death on the 14th of *February* 1715. at the Age of 25 Years and an half.

Alberoni who knew all the great Qualities of this Illustrious Princess to Perfection, and had tasted of her Royal Favours, sincerely lamented her Loss. But what was the greatest Mortification to him of all, and seemed an insurmountable Obstacle to his Designs, was the Princess *Ursini*.

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This imperious haughty Lady, the distinguished Favourite of the late Queen and King, saw her Power so encreased after the Death of her Royal Mistress, that she thought nothing above her but the Throne. She had an opportunity of seeing the King every Day, having been declared Governess of the Princes; and she omitted nothing that might mitigate his Sorrow, by all the fine Arts she knew herself Mistress of, in-
somuch that there flew abroad a Report that her ambitious Views had carried her to have an Eye on the Throne, and she had too much of her own Nation in her not to be sensible of her own Interests; and therefore accommodated herself with all her Cunning and Address, that she might insensibly gain her Point.

Alberoni was too penetrating not to perceive this artful Conduct and Management of the Princess, and from that very Moment looked upon her as the only Check to his Designs, which he was resolved (come of it what would), to remove, and which he soon after most effectually did, as will be shewn in its proper place.

The Age and Constitution of King *Philip*, together with the state of his Affairs, made it very reasonable to believe, he could not stay without a second Consort. *Alberoni*,

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who from the very beginning of knowing the World, had an antipathy to the House of *Austria*, and being industrious to embarrass the Court of *Vienna*, and at the same time to aggrandize the Duke of *Parma* his Master, imagined, that an Alliance between King *Philip*, and the Family of *Farnese*, would not only furnish his Catholick Majesty with one opportunity more to revive those Rights which were endeavoured, by the Peace of *Utrecht* and the Treaty of Evacuation and Neutrality, to be taken from him ; but would at the same time raise him to the highest State of Human Grandeur.

This Affair, which any one beside himself, would have found an insuperable difficulty, was notwithstanding, brought to Perfection with the greatest Secresy in the World.

Cardinal *del Giudice*, an able Statesman, then Grand Inquisitor of *Spain*, was at the Head of Affairs ; and as the King did nothing without his Advice, one would have thought that Minister most likely to have been consulted in an affair of such Importance ; but the truth of it was, he had been always most intimate with the Princess *Ursini* ; and it was not for their Interest to get the King another Wife, especially

cially such a one as the Princess of *Parma*, whose Vivacity, Judgment, and knowledge of Affairs they knew, and who might consequently in all probability alter their Condition.

In short, this Affair was managed with that Secrecy and Expedition, Cardinal *Acquaviva* (who took care at that time, of the Interests of the Crown of *Spain* at *Rome*) having by his Address brought over *Clement XI.* which he had no great difficulty to do, the Popes having always loved the House of *Farnese* with a true Paternal Affection (that Family deriving its Origin from one of the Sovereign Pontiffs), so that to the surprize of all *Europe*, this Match was declared and Solemnized only for Form sake, in a publick place of Audience, the 18th of *July*, 1714.

It was not long after that this Princess arrived in *Spain*, attended by the Princess *Piombino*, the first Lady of Honour, and the Marquess *de los Balbazes* late *Vice-Roy* of *Sicily*, to whose Care Cardinal *Acquaviva* had deliver'd her at *Genoa*.

The first Act of Authority she exercised was upon the Princess *Ursini*. This Lady went to meet the new Queen at *Xadraguez*, upon the Frontiers of *Castile*; but she was the first Victim the King sacrific'd

to his new Spouse, who being a Stranger to the Court of *Spain*, and having no Rule to direct her but the Instructions *Alberoni* sent her from time to time to *Parma*, desired the King to dismiss a Favourite, who had such an Influence over him as could not well subsist with the good Harmony which should be cultivated between her and her Husband.

The King knew not how to refuse this first Request of the Queen, but the difficulty lay in the doing it. *Alberoni*, who was always ready to give a Lift to the Princess, found out an Expedient, which was, that the King should only give his Consent, and leave the Execution of it to the Queen; for he knew had this been done at *Madrid*, it would have met with almost insuperable Difficulties, knowing very well that the King had not Resolution to break it to her himself, or could withstand her Tears, had she thrown herself at his Feet.

And by what followed, it evidently appear'd that it was *Alberoni* who persuaded her to go and meet the new Queen at *Xadraquez*, because her Majesty gave her but a very indifferent Reception, and immediately ordered her to depart her Chamber; called for the Colonel of the Guards, and gave

gave him Command in Writing, to put the Princess *Ursini* immediately into a Coach, and conduct her to the Frontiers of *France*, and to forbid her ever coming into *Spain*.

This was complied with by the Princess, but with great Reluctance; and she could not help letting fall some Expressions of her Resentment, when she perceived how she had been tricked by *Alberoni*; who by this Disgrace, revenged both himself, and the Memory of his Master the Duke of *Vendosm*.

The Queen was received at *Guadalaxara*, nine Leagues from *Madrid*, by the King and the Prince of *Asturias*, and the Marriage was Consummated in that place on *Christmas-Eve*, 1714, but at her arrival at *Pampeluna*, she sent home all her Servants that attended her from *Parma*; so that her Ladies, and the Officers that were employed in her Service, were all *Spanish*, except the Princess *Piombino*, whom she loved tenderly; but that wise Lady reflecting on what had happened in her Sight to the Princess *Ursini*, desired leave to return home, which their Majesties granted her, after bestowing on her vast numbers of rich and valuable Presents.

This Conduct of hers gained her the Esteem of the *Spaniards*, for there was
now

now in the Court no *Parmesan* but *Alberoni*, of whose Genius and Abilities she not unjustly entertained a very great Idea; in short she made it her Rule to consult him in all affairs of Importance; and by degrees prevailed upon the King to admit him into the Cabinet.

This was what *Alberoni* aimed at, and he had nothing more to do, to become Prime Minister of State, but to remove Cardinal *Del Giudice* from that Employment; which he so artfully effected, that he made his Eminency desire his own Dismission from their Majesties, but this was the more easily brought about, because his intimate Friend (whom at that Court he chiefly relied, and whose Interests indeed were the same) I mean the Princess of *Ursini*, who was constrained to leave that Kingdom.

The Queen out of a true Heroic Principle of Gratitude, thought she could not do enough for a Man, to whose Address and Management she owed the Crown of *Spain*; she continually loaded him with her Honours; and by her unwearied Solicitations, procured *Alberoni* a Cardinal's Hat, the greatest Honour in the World a Subject can attain to in the Church of *Rome*, Grandee and Prime Minister of *Spain*;

Spain ; and besides many other Benefices, the Arch-Bishoprick of *Seville*, than which (except the Papacy) there are not two better in the World.

And now see this great Man from a poor Gardner's Son, raise himself by the Force of his own Genius to be one of the most considerable Persons of the World, shining in the full Meridian of his Glories. But alas ! How slippery are the Paths of human Greatness ? How vain and fugitive are worldly Honours ? and how little to be depended upon the Favours of Princes ? A never to be forgotten Example of this is the now Plume-pluck'd Cardinal *Alberoni*, the late mitred Peacock, the very *WOLSEY* of *Spain*.

There is no one (even his Enemies) that ever made Question of the Abilities of this Minister for publick Employ. To his superior Genius and indefatigable Application, *Spain* owes her present Grandeur, which was never in so flourishing a Condition since *Charles V.* and it is astonishing to think how she has singly held out against so many united Powers ; but all this is owing to the Intriguing Head of Cardinal *Alberoni*, who had very near, lately, cut out Work which must inevitably have embroil'd all *Europe* for many Years : in short, King
Philip

Philip may say of him as one of our Kings did of an unfortunate Great Man, *That he was a Minister a King might rather be afraid than asham'd of.*

But whether his Conduct has been more suitable to his own private Views and Ambition than Conscience and Honour, must be left to himself and his Jesuitical Confessor. For my part, as I know an unerring Providence governs all, so it is no matter of Wonder and Astonishment to me, to have seen this Huge COLOSSUS, this Giant of Power and Riches, sink by its own Weight, and be ruin'd by those very Steps he attain'd the lofty Summit of his Glory.

For in reality, the Match of King *Philip* with the Princess of *Parma*, as it was what made way for him to gain his ambitious Ends, so it was what was the Beginning of his Ruine. Had his Ambition, which so much dazzled him, gave him but a little time to reflect, he might have been satisfy'd such Honours and Advantages would be but of a short continuance, since it would inevitably draw a great many Enemies upon him of the highest Rank and Figure in the World, whose Resentments it would have been but natural for him to suppose he must one time or other expect the Effects of: whereas, had he turn'd his Eyes to another Object,

Object, he had not only made so strict an Alliance that might have secur'd a lasting Peace to *Europe*, but even establish'd his own Fortunes on such solid Foundations that no Potentate could ever be able to shake; and which, besides, would have gain'd him the Honour, of having been chiefly instrumental in confirming the King on his Throne, and restoring an inviolable Tranquillity to his Dominions.

And this might have been effected from an Alliance with the House of *Austria*, by the King's marrying the eldest Arch-Dutcheß, the Emperor's Sister; but it may be justly said, that in this Case his Eminence was abandon'd by his good Genius, since from such an Expedient he would have reap'd the greatest Advantages. *Sicily* would immediately, of Course, have return'd to the Obedience of *Spain*, and he would have been certain of the grateful Returns of both Houses, which he would not only have reconcil'd, but closely united, after having taken care of their Common Interests.

The King of *Portugal*, whose Interests are so nearly concern'd to keep up a good Understanding with *Spain*, especially in
D Peace,

Peace, would most certainly have been glad to be the Mediator of that Alliance ; because, if a Sister of his Consort should come to ascend the *Spanish* Throne, such an Event must unavoidably knit the Ties of a strict Alliance between the two Kingdoms more closely than ever.

But the Cardinal pursuing his own Politicks had other Views, and by the Help of the Pope and Cardinal *Aquaviva*, brought on the *Parmesan* Match, which, for his own immediate Interest he was so fond of ; not considering that the Emperor, and the other Powers of *Europe*, would not sit still and see those Dominions of *Parma*, *Placentia*, and the rich and fruitful Dutchy of *Tuscany*, united to the Crown of *Spain*.

I shall not here say, whether it was agreeable to true Politicks to provoke the King of *Sicily*, by outwitting him (a thing *Lewis XIV.* with all his *Finesse* and King-Craft could never do) in the Invasion of his Kingdom, since he had certain Intelligence (as he says) that it was to be deliver'd up to the Emperor ; but this I must say, it was neither for His, nor his Master's Honour, to invade the Emperor's Dominions in *Italy*, (for it must not be imagin'd
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the *Spanish* Arms were to lie useless and unemploy'd after the Reduction of *Sicily*, that was only to be a Prelude to *Naples*) at a Time when the Emperor was engag'd in a War against the Common Enemy, and at a Time too, when he had engag'd his Honour to the Pope to the contrary, and the Holy Father taking him at his Word, was made the Instrument to hand about this Fallacy to the Emperor ; which, when it was found out, oblig'd that Prince, by a sudden Peace, to stop the Career of his victorious Legions, which long since might have entred *Constantinople* in Triumph, and made the Crescent prostrate to the Cross.

I remember in the last War with *Spain*, the *Spanish* Devotees, or Bigots, call them which you will, were very much scandaliz'd, or at least pretended so, that King *Charles* (the now Emperor) had engag'd Heretical Allies to assist him in his Pretensions to the *Spanish* Monarchy, and this was loudly trumpeted about, and undoubtedly to the Disadvantage of that Prince's Affairs. What must the Catholick King be supported by Hereticks ?

But alas! the Case is alter'd, (as *Plowden* said to the Countryman) it is now no Secret that the Cardinal courted an Alliance, much more dangerous to his Religion, I mean the *Grand Signior*; and this, by the means of *Prince Ragotzki*, to whom it is well known he sent a Minister, to reside with him on the part of his Master King *Philip*; and of himself, that the Port might be thorowly inform'd how much the Emperor was employ'd by the War in *Italy*, and what great Advantages the *Sultan* might reap by continuing the War in *Hungary*.

It is true, the Prince *de Cellamare* in several printed Papers thought fit to deny it, and run down this Discovery as an Imposition on Mankind; a plain Demonstration he was ashamed of it, and thought it a manifest Reflection on his Master's Honour; but People will notwithstanding believe it, till such time as he shall have prov'd the Falseness of an Account given in the *Paris Journal* of the said Minister's Voyage to, and safe Arrival at *Adrianople*, and of his famous Speech he made there to *Prince Ragotzki*.

This

This last remarkable Conduct of the Cardinal, was not a little resented by the Sovereign Pontiff, if we may believe what he says to his dear Son, the Catholick King, in his Letter to that Prince; where, in the most pathetick Terms, he reproaches him (but in a handsome manner) with his Breach of Faith, (a Thing odious in all Men, especially in Princes) and no doubt Cardinal *del Giudice*, to whom he bears an Averfion, and the Revenues of whose Church at *Moureale* in *Sicily* he prevail'd upon the King to get sequestred by the Marquis *de Lede*, contributed not a little to fire the Holy Father with such just Resentment; nor is it impossible that the Princess *Ursini*, Cardinal *del Giudice*'s true Friend, will never forget the good Offices *Alberoni* did her to the new Queen of *Spain* at *Xadraquez*, and consequently will improve every thing to his Disadvantage, especially if she entertains the least Thoughts of returning to *Spain*, since some People are of opinion she really does. It is not long ago that she made some Efforts which seem'd to raise her Credit, for she obtain'd of King *Philip* the Continuation of her Pension, which was a great Step towards her return to Favour; and that

Prince's

Prince's generously giving her a Principality of 30000 Crowns Revenue, and, that actually in the *Netherlands*, and insisting in her Favour at the Treaties which have been made, even in that of *Baden*, is a flagrant Proof of the Complaisance which the King still retains for that Lady: What Influence then she may yet have by her Intrigues in the *Spanish* Court, for her return thither, and how she may have contributed to the Cardinal's Ruine, no one but her self can tell; but we may reasonably suppose she has made her utmost Efforts to remove him from a Place which will be of too narrow Extent to hold them both.

But what we may with highest Reason imagine has put the finishing Stroke to his Ruine, is his affronting in a very singular manner the King of *Great Britain*, and the Duke Regent of *France*, by unheard of Methods, and which, if they had taken place, must have involv'd both Nations in Civil Wars, the most bloody and unnatural.

Every Body knows that his Sacred Majesty King *G E O R G E* (of whom we are not worthy) having taken extraordinary

nary pains to confirm the Repose of *Europe*, and to compose the Differences that remain'd to be accommodated, with respect to the Succession of *Spain*, had brought matters to a total Accommodation, by disposing his Imperial Majesty to renounce all his Pretensions to *Spain* and the *Indies*, provided *Sicily* only be deliver'd up to the Emperor. *France* came readily into the Scheme, and engag'd on those Conditions to procure such a Renunciation from the Court of *Vienna*, but nothing could prevail with Cardinal *Alberoni* to consent to this so reasonable a Plan of Pacification; but his Refusal to come into these Measures, was then imputed to the extraordinary Confidence in the numerous Forces he had then employ'd.

However if one may judge by the Event of his first settings out, his Confidence was in reality built but on very weak Foundations; for at the first Tryal he made of his Forces which he thought so strong, his Fleet was intirely defeated in *Sicily*. It is true his Creatures to diminish the Loss, and hinder the whole Truth being known in *Spain*, made a mighty Noise of the taking of *Palermo* and *Messina*, and with what Joy the Natives came crowding to the *Spaniards*.

niards. But as it is impossible long to conceal the Truth, his Eminence thought fit to send a Letter to the Marquis *de Monteleone*, the *Spanish* Ambassador, at this Court, in which he reproach'd the *English* for having, without any Motive, Necessity, or Pretext, abus'd the Character they had taken on themselves of Mediators, and attack'd a People who thought them Friends, and did by no means mistrust them. How can this Letter agree with what Answer he return'd to our Admiral's Dispatches, *viz.* *That he might obey the Orders of the King his Master, and act as he thought fit?* However, this famous Letter to the Marquis *de Monteleone*, was more than sufficiently refuted by Mr. Secretary *Craggs*, and to which, my Readers for fuller Satisfaction may refer themselves. There indeed appear'd a second Letter which had no Answer, but then it was, because it did not deserve one, or it was suppos'd there was no Danger of it's making any great Impression on the minds of the People; and in reality, Things took their Course, and the States General declar'd for the Quadruple Alliance, tho' with some Reservations.

I shall

I shall not mention here his engaging the King of *Sweden*, a Protestant Prince ; who was induced by the Cardinal to invade *England*, and to assist the *Chevalier* ; tho' the Arrest of two Ministers of that King after his Death, and their Prosecution for Moneys they receiv'd and apply'd to their own Use, puts that Fact out of all manner of Question.

But this Secret more than sufficiently explained itself by the publick arrival of the late Duke of *Ormond*, in *Spain*, who was invited to *Madrid*, and caressed both by the King and his Eminence, after a very particular manner ; and not long after arrived the *Chevalier* himself, who had all the Honour paid him of a Crown'd Head ; and this the Cardinal, it seems, valued himself upon, tho' perhaps he may have just reason to wish he had timely altered his Conduct.

The Duke Regent of *France* will have no reason soon to forget what a good Turn he designed that Kingdom, which was to have been a Sea of Blood, a Design so dark and infernal, and so deeply laid, that it was almost a Miracle it was discovered.

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The Politicks of Cardinal *Alberoni*, in refusing one while under one Pretext, and another while under another, all the Proposals of Accommodation, with the Courts of *Great Britain* and *France*, were the subject matter of Wonder and Admiration; but the World was no less surprized, when it found that the Ground of his Refusal was in hopes to see *France* in particular, embarrassed at home, that she would have no time or Convenience of meddling with the Affairs of *Spain*.

It cannot indeed be denyed, that 'tis a Maxim in Politicks, which takes place at this Day, to find work at home for those we are not willing should meddle with our Affairs; but let the loosest Casuist of his Church tell us, whether all Methods of plunging our Neighbours into inextricable Broils are justifiable. In the mean time, every one of the least Reflection must think with Horror of those Schemes which cannot be put in Execution without effusion of Blood, and no wonder if all Persons cannot be brought to approve them.

Cardinal

Cardinal *Alberoni* being very well versed in this Political Rule of Conduct, when he formed to himself the great Design of recovering the *Spanish* Monarchy, which had been rent in pieces by the last War, foresaw the opposition of the *Emperour*, whom he must oblige to restore what he had in his Possession; as also of *Great Britain*, *France*, and the *States General*, who interested themselves in favour of that Peace *Europe* began to enjoy. He therefore did all he could to find every one of these Powers sufficient Employment, to render them incapable of hindring his grand Designs. He used all his Art and Interest (even to court the *Grand Turk*) to prolong the War in *Hungary*. He espoused the Cause of the Pretender to oblige the *English* to stay at home, and engage them in a Civil War. As for the *Dutch*, they gave him no manner of Apprehension, believing that for the sake of their Commerce, they would be the last to enter into all the Projects the Confederates might form against him; and that there would always be an Opportunity to draw them off by Offers more advantageous than they could possibly expect in engaging in a War.

The business now was to divert the *French* from opposing his Designs, but that he found no difficult matter to do, the posture of Affairs in that Kingdom furnished him with an opportunity of fomenting Divisions among them (for *Divide & Impera* was his Motto), to hinder their being unanimous in a War against *Spain*. He had no manner of Pretence to excite Broils against the King of *France*; but the Duke Regent, by espousing the Cause of the Princes of the Blood, against the Legitimated Princes, and his punishing so exemplary the Farmers of the Revenue, gave a handle to some Malecontents to foment Divisions, and embroil his Affairs. Add to this the Dissention still reigning amongst the Clergy on account of the Constitution *Unigenitus*; the Sticklers for which take care to insinuate, nay loudly complain that the *Regent* has not a due Respect for the Pope's Authority; all which afforded the Cardinal another Motive to take advantage of their Zeal to the Decisions of the Holy Father to set them against his Royal Highness; and this was the more dangerous to that Prince, because the Clergy of the highest Order are generally in the Interest of the Sovereign Pontiff.

The

The Scheme or Plan of this Opposition against the *Regent's* design of maintaining the Peace, was in short, a downright Conspiracy of all the Malecontents (who, as it has been just now hinted, were very numerous) against him; and the View of all this was no more, than to deprive him of the Regency, on pretence that this great Prince (whose great Abilities for Government, are so eminently conspicuous) abused that mighty Trust, to the Ruin of the Kingdom and the Church, the latter of which, *viz.* the Church being in Danger, has always been an Artifice to keep up the Hearts of the Disaffected, to do what their Leaders would have them, but in reality it was no more than to have him remov'd (to speak in no harsher Terms) from the Regency.

But what was to follow such Removal is not said; tho' indeed the Letters intercepted from the Prince *de Cellamare* makes mention of this Circumstance, *viz.* That the Regency was to have been vested in the Duke de *Chartres*, the Regent's Son, as also how the Regency was to be form'd. There is even mention made of a *Fire* which was to have been all over the Kingdom,

dom, after the *Mines* should be sprung to kindle it, which, undoubtedly, is most frightful and horrid.

But Heaven has baffled all the Machinations of this intriguing Minister, which were timely discover'd by Events the most unexpected. How deep, alas ! were all his Projects laid to involve all *Europe* in Confusion, Blood and Slaughter ? His fomenting civil Broils in the *Empire, Great-Britain, and France*, are flagrant Proofs of his restless Ambition which knew no Bounds. His Projects to ruine our Liberty and holy Faith, and embroil *Europe* in a dreadful War, are now no more ; the which Blessings, under Providence, we owe to the Penetration of our AUGUST SOVEREIGN King *G E O R G E*, and his Faithful and Indefatigable Ministers, in Concert with his most Illustrious Allies. That Heaven declares for Us is most certain ; for so many dark Designs, so deeply laid, and so well concerted, according to human Policy, by this proud, artful and haughty Minister, could never, but by a superior Power, who governs all, and is ever just in his Retributes, just in the most obvious manner to this Unhappy Minister, who has been disgrac'd after the same manner
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as was the Princess *Ursini* by his Instigation ; so true is it, according to the Royal Psalmist, *The wicked flourish but for a Time*, and that *he is fallen into the Ditch he made for another* ; a terrible Example to all Evil Ministers, who prefer their own Interest before that of their King and Country.

F I N I S.



It was the Prince's duty his last
action; to trust it according to the
Royal pleasure. The wicked thought but
for a time, and that he is fallen into
the Ditch he made for himself; a terri-
ble Example to all Ministers, who pre-
fer their own interests that of their
King and Country.

F I N I S



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